



The last dying Words, Speech, and Confession of ELIZ. OSBORNE, who was executed on Saturday last the 13th April inst. at Hereford, for the cruel Murder of her Mother-in-law.

ELIZABETH OSBORNE, aged 19, the unfortunate subject of this narrative, was born in a small village near Hereford; her mother dying when she had arrived at her fourth year. Her father in a few years after married a second wife, with whom he received a handsome fortune. For a considerable time this young lady lived very happily with her mother-in-law, and was indulged in every thing she wished for; but their peace and happiness was at length disturbed by a young gentleman in the neighbourhood paying his addresses to the daughter without having asked or obtained the mother-in-law's consent. But this the young people thought of little moment, and they resolved, at all hazards to be united, and accordingly put in the bans of marriage, and they were accordingly published in the parish on the Sunday following. The old Lady, however, forbade the bans, and thus frustrated the intention of the lovers. This so irritated the young woman, that she meditated the most dreadful revenge, and so strong and powerful were the suggestions of the Evil Spirit upon her depraved mind, that she came to the horrid resolution of murdering the aged object of her resentment; nor was she long before she found an opportunity of putting her dreadful resolution into execution. The method used to effect her fatal purpose, was by watching the opportunity of finding the old Lady alone and asleep in bed, when with one of her father's razors, she approached her unsuspecting victim, and while sleeping on her pillow, she cut her throat in a most shocking manner, and lay weltering in her blood.

The bloody tragedy performed, the miserable wretch was seized with remorse, and distractedly flew from the horrific scene, and in despair sought for refuge in the arms of her lover, but here no asylum could be found; he flew from her with horror! and the officer of Justice quickly secured her.

On her trial she appeared convulsed with agony, and obstinately persisted in pleading 'guilty,' so that little of the time of the court was taken up with the trial. The learned Judge then proceeded to pass the awful sentence of the law upon her, which he did in a most

pathetic and impressive manner, which, together with the interesting appearance of the unhappy woman herself, notwithstanding the enormity of her crime, drew forth tears of commiseration from the whole court. At the conclusion of the sentence, when the dreadful words, 'and then your body to be taken down and delivered to the surgeons for dissection,' she fainted away, and was taken back to her cell in a state of insensibility.

About ten o'clock on Saturday morning she ascended the fatal scaffold, with a greater degree of fortitude and resignation than could have been expected; and addressed the numerous spectators around her in nearly the following words:—"Good people, you see, now before you an unfortunate young woman, cut off just in the prime of life, and that for the most dreadful of all crimes, Murder! Let my dreadful fate be a warning to you not to suffer your passions to work too forcibly on your minds, which has been the cause of the melancholy situation in which I am now placed, let me beg your prayers—good people pray for me, O pray for me" She then dropped a white handkerchief she held in her hand, as a preconcerted signal, and was immediately launched into eternity.

The following verses were chosen by herself, and sung at the place of execution:—

No blood of goats, nor heifer slain,
For sin could e'er atone;
The death of Christ shall still remain,
Sufficient and alone.

A soul oppress'd with sin's distress,
My God will ne'er despise;
A humble groan a broken heart,
Is our best sacrifice.

After hanging the usual time, the body was cut down, and that part of the sentence carried into effect respecting dissection, being delivered to the surgeons.

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